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Letter dated 5 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With regard to the fourteenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004) (S/2013/467), which was submitted to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Permanent Mission would like to make the following observations:

Although the report notes that the influence of Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities has risen in Syria, a development to which we have drawn attention repeatedly from the outset of the crisis in Syria, the Monitoring Team failed to make any mention of the savage acts of terrorism that have been committed in Syria by Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the foremost of which is the Nusrah Front. These crimes have targeted Syrian civilians and military personnel, Muslim and Christian religious leaders, hospitals, educational institutions, mosques and churches, civilian aircraft, diplomatic missions, factories, antiquities, museums and shrines. Moreover, the terrorist groups have even abducted and detained United Nations peacekeepers serving in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

On behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Permanent Mission has sent scores of letters to the Secretary-General and successive Presidents of the Security Council regarding the acts of terrorism and suicide bombings that have been perpetrated by terrorist groups in Syria over the past two years. Those letters have been circulated as documents of the Security Council and the General Assembly under the relevant agenda items, and we had hoped that the Monitoring Team would make reference to those acts of terrorism in its report.

The Monitoring Team, perhaps inadvertently, failed to mention that the number of terrorists in Syria who are affiliated with Al-Qaida has risen because certain States Members of the United Nations, the foremost of which are Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, are colluding with one another to support, arm, train, fund and dispatch transnational terrorists and foreign mercenaries who are fighting proxy wars in Syrian territory and targeting every component of Syria. Reports issued by intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations have confirmed that specific States are involved in bringing and smuggling "fighters" and weapons into Syrian territory in order to fight Government forces.

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The report also failed to note that the increased Al-Qaida presence in Syria is the result of the destructive role played by media organizations that are supported and sponsored by the Governments of certain States. These organizations are inciting terrorism, disseminating extremist ideology and promoting religious and sectarian chauvinism in order to heighten the crisis in Syria and the region.

It is regrettable that the United Nations has stood by impotently as extremism and terrorism continue to rise in Syria and the region with the blessing and support of certain States Members of the Organization. This rise has also been welcomed and supported by salafist, Wahhabi, takfirist and extremist organizations in States that claim to be at the forefront of the counter-terrorism effort and among the leading contributors to United Nations counter-terrorism funds and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that those States that are arming, funding, training and providing safe havens for armed terrorists and facilitating their entry into Syria are partners in terrorism and complicit in the killing of Syrians. Their actions not only violate the principles of international law and Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, the most important of which are resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1989 (2011), but are also contrary to resolutions 2042 (2012) and 2043 (2012) and the Geneva communiqué, all of which affirm the importance of arriving at a resolution to the Syrian crisis through a Syrian-led political process.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative